

1 ~~SUB A1~~ 1. A method comprising:
2 receiving a dedicated inventory allocation;
3 completing a plurality of on-line transactions
4 against said allocation; and
5 requesting additional dedicated inventory
6 allocation.

Sal 1 2. The method of claim 1 further including
2 maintaining a count of available inventory allocation and
3 decrementing said count as each on-line transaction is
4 completed.

1 ~~SUB B1~~ 3. The method of claim 1 wherein receiving a
2 dedicated inventory allocation includes receiving an
3 inventory allocation from a remote site.

1 ~~SUB A2~~ 4. The method of claim 1 wherein receiving a
2 dedicated inventory allocation includes receiving said
3 allocation over a network.

1 5. The method of claim 4 wherein receiving a
2 dedicated inventory allocation includes receiving said
3 allocation over the Internet.

1 6. The method of claim 1 wherein requesting an
2 additional dedicated inventory allocation includes

3 determining whether the inventory allocation needs to be
4 replenished.

1 7. The method of claim 6 wherein determining whether
2 the inventory allocation needs to be replenished includes
3 determining whether the existing allocation has been
4 reduced below a preset level.

1 8. The method of claim 6 wherein determining whether
2 the inventory allocation needs to be replenished includes
3 implementing a dynamic calculation that considers the rate
4 at which on-line transactions are being completed.

1 9. The method of claim 8 including utilizing the
2 rate at which transactions are completed and the rate at
3 which additional inventory is to be requested to determine
4 whether the inventory allocation needs to be replenished.

1 10. An article comprising a medium for storing
2 instructions that cause a processor-based system to:
3 receive a dedicated inventory allocation;
4 complete a plurality of on-line transactions
5 against said allocation; and
6 request additional dedicated inventory
7 allocation.

1 11. The article of claim 10 further storing
2 instructions that cause a processor-based system to
3 maintain a count of available inventory allocation and
4 decrement said count as each on-line transaction occurs.

1 12. The article of claim 10 further storing
2 instructions that cause a processor-based system to receive
3 an inventory allocation from a remote site.

1 13. The article of claim 10 further storing
2 instructions that cause a processor-based system to receive
3 said allocation over a network.

1 14. The article of claim 13 further storing
2 instructions that cause a processor-based system to receive
3 said allocation over the Internet.

1 15. The article of claim 10 further storing
2 instructions that cause a processor-based system to
3 determine whether the inventory allocation needs to be
4 replenished.

1 16. The article of claim 15 further storing
2 instructions that cause a processor-based system to
3 determine whether the existing allocation has been reduced
4 below a preset level.

1 17. The article of claim 15 further storing
2 instructions that cause a processor-based system to
3 implement a dynamic calculation that considers the rate at
4 which on-line transactions are being completed.

1 18. The article of claim 17 further storing
2 instructions that cause a processor-based system to utilize
3 the rate at which transactions are completed and the rate
4 at which additional inventory is to be requested to
5 determine whether the inventory allocation needs to be
6 replenished.

1 19. A system comprising:
2 a server that completes a plurality of on-line
3 transactions;
4 a memory coupled to said server that stores an
5 inventory allocation; and
6 said server decrements said inventory allocation
7 with each transaction, monitors the inventory allocation
8 and automatically requests an additional inventory
9 allocation.

1 20. The system of claim 19 wherein said server is
2 coupled to the Internet and completes transactions over the
3 Internet.

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22. The system of claim 21 wherein said server requests additional inventory allocation based at least in part on a predetermined frequency for requests for additional inventory allocation.

1 SUBP 23. A method comprising:
2 providing a dedicated inventory allocation;
3 receiving a request for an additional dedicated
4 inventory allocation; and
5 providing an additional dedicated inventory
6 allocation.

1 ~~24.~~ 24. A method of claim 23 further including providing
2 a frequency for requests for additional allocation.

1) 25. A method of claim/23 including providing said
2 inventory allocation over the Internet.

1 26. An article for comprising a medium that stores
2 instructions that cause a processor-based system to:

3 provide a dedicated inventory allocation;
4 receive a request for additional dedicated
5 inventory allocation; and
6 provide additional dedicated inventory
7 allocation.

1 27. The article of claim 26 further storing
2 instructions that cause a processor-based system to provide
3 a frequency for requests for additional allocation.

1 28. The article of claim 26 further storing
2 instructions that cause a processor-based system to provide
3 said inventory allocation over the Internet.

1 *Sub B3* 29. A system comprising:
2 a server; and
3 a storage storing software that causes said
4 server to provide a dedicated inventory allocation, receive
5 a request for an additional dedicated inventory allocation,
6 and provide an additional dedicated inventory allocation.

1 *Sub D cont* 30. The system of claim 29 wherein said server is
2 coupled to the Internet.